

Appl. No. 10/716,736

Docket No.: 1232-5205

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

***Claim Status***

Claim 1 is pending and has been rejected.

***Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ujita (“Ujita”)( U.S. Patent No. 6,820,973) in view of Kanbayashi et al. (“Kanbayashi”)( U.S. Patent No. 5,847,736).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the claim and prior art in the stated rejection and respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as pending is patentably distinct from Ujita and Kanbayashi for at least the following reasons.

In the claim, a numerical value of cavities between fibers of absorber contained in a sub tank in an intermittent ink supply (pit-in) system is recited. The invention brings out the advantage for suppressing accumulation of bubbles in the sub tank in the pit-in supply.

In contrast, Ujita discloses the pit-in supply structure and an absorber contained in the sub tank. However, Ujita is completely silent about the condition of cavity of absorber.

The Examiner contends that Kanbayashi discloses a size of absorber. Applicants submit that Kanbayashi discloses only that a thickness of sheet-like waste ink absorber is 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm. No absorber size is discussed. Kanbayashi thus does not teach or suggest the size as to the cavity between fibers constituting the absorber.

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Accordingly, the numerical values defined in the claim cannot be derived from Ujita or Kanbayashi taken solely or in combination.

More particularly, Ukita and/or Kanabayashi, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 1.

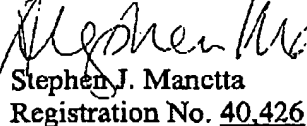
Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as claimed is neither taught nor suggested by, and therefore neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of, Ukita and/or Kanabayashi taken individually or in combination with the other art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being rendered obvious in view of the cited art.

### CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

While no fees are believed due and the petitioned extension of time is believed sufficient, should an additional extension of time be required to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5205.

Respectfully submitted,  
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